Housing On-Line Self Service

User Guide





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What is Housing Self Service?

Housing Self Service allows customers of Hull City Council to securely access their personal information online including rent account details, contact details and communication preferences.

In the future we will look to expand Housing Self Service to enable customers to log and track repair requests and complete online surveys.

The tenancy information that you can view on Housing Self Service is accurate and the same information is held by Hull City Council and used by members of staff.

Housing Self Service can be accessed from the Hull City Council website on the following link http://www.hullcc.gov.uk and clicking on 'Housing' link under the 'Services' header on the right hand side of the page.

To log in to Housing Self Service or to register for the first time, click on the 'View your contact details' link under the Contact Details section.

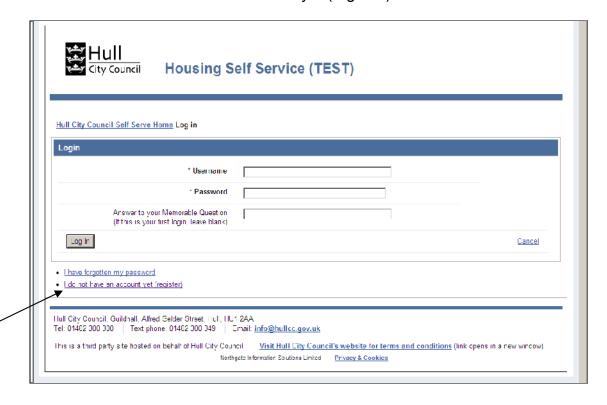
This will launch a screen which will allow users to enter a user name, password and memorable question (which is selected as part of the registration process)



How to register for Housing Self Service

To register for Housing Self Service, click on the 'View your contact details' link under the Contact Details section (see previous page). This will launch the log in screen (as below).

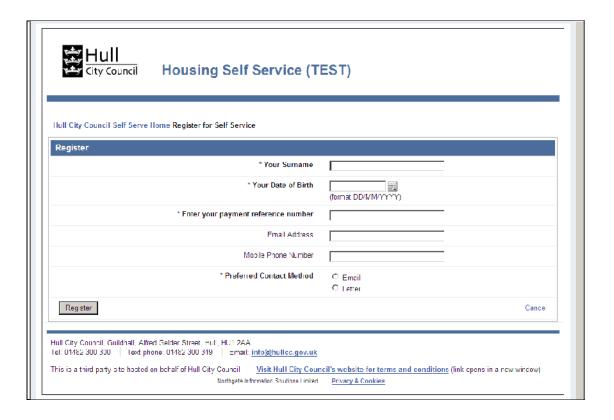
Click on the 'I do not have an account yet (register)' link



The registration screen will open, and will require the entry of a number of pieces of information to confirm your registration. This includes surname, date of birth, payment reference number, email address (if known) and mobile phone number (if known), and preferred contact method.

These last two items will enable Hull City Council Housing to contact you in the event of a problem.

See screen shot of registration page



- Enter Your Surname.
- Enter Your Date of Birth. Click on the calendar drop down button to the right of this section to open an online calendar. This ensures that dates are entered into the system correctly.
- Enter your unique payment reference number (which is quoted on your rent card/paper rent statements).
- Enter a valid email address. Housing Self Service will use this email address to contact you should you choose to be contacted by email rather than by post.
- Other email addresses and phone numbers can be registered (see updating contact details section).
- If you have a mobile phone number, please enter the valid mobile number.
- Select the preferred contact method, either email or letter. This value is mandatory. Should you select the email correspondence option, then a valid email address is required.

If you have entered the information correctly, registration will be automatic and letters containing user details and passwords will be sent separately within seven working days from date of registration.



If any of the details entered do not match the records held by Housing Department then an error message will be displayed, stating that the "system is unable to uniquely identify you from the details given".

Please try again, however if too many unsuccessful attempts have been made the site will close. If this happens, please contact:

<u>HS-SystemsSupportTeam@hullcc.gov.uk</u> or telephone 01482 300 300 for further help.

After registration - using Housing Self Service for the first time

Within seven working days from date of registration, Housing Self Service users will receive two separate letters addressed to their recorded correspondence address.

One letter contains a unique user identifier (user name); the other letter contains a system generated password.

When both letters have been received, you will be able to log in to Housing Self Service from the link from Hull City Council website or from Housing Self Service if you have saved this link on your computer.

At the first log in, users will be able to

Re-enter the current password and choose a new one, if needed, to something more memorable, (this needs to be at least eight characters and contain at least one number, one uppercase character and one lowercase character for example NewYear12).

Type a memorable question and the answer. This helps provide an additional level of security for users to be able to reset their own password if this has been forgotten.

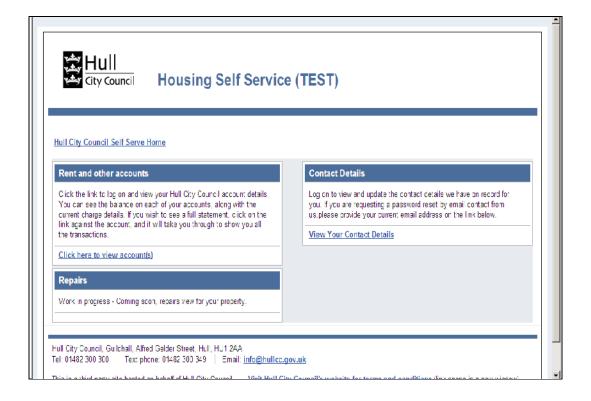
Click on the Log in button



After registration - using Housing Self Service for the first time (continued)

This will take you to the Housing Self Service home screen where:

- Contact details held by Hull City Council Housing can be accessed and updated
- Online rent statements, including payments can be viewed
- Mail preferences can be viewed and updated
- You can log out of Housing Self Service.



How to access and update your contact details

- 1. Click on the View Your Contact Details link
- 2. Existing contact details held by Hull City Council Housing Department will be shown. These details can include telephone numbers and any email addresses we have on record for you.

Correct contact details enable the Housing Department to deliver excellent customer care at all times.

Creating new contact details

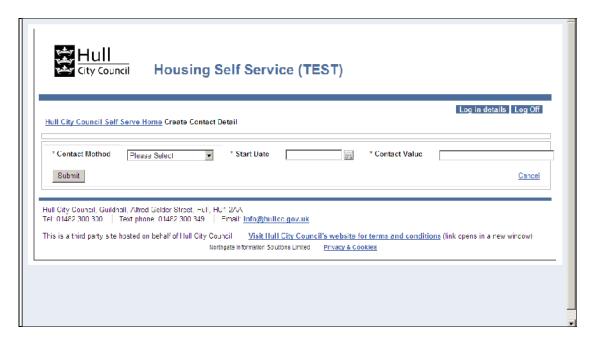
 To create new contact details, click on the 'Create new contact Details' button



How to access and update your contact details (continued)

Select from the Contact Method, (either Telephone or Email address) the effective start date of this contact method (if you don't fill this in, it will automatically be set to the current date) and the contact value (either email or phone number).

Once all details have been entered, click on the Submit button



Removing out of date contact details

Contact details that are no longer relevant can be removed from Housing Self Service by simply selecting the <u>End Contact Detail</u> link relating to the contact method.

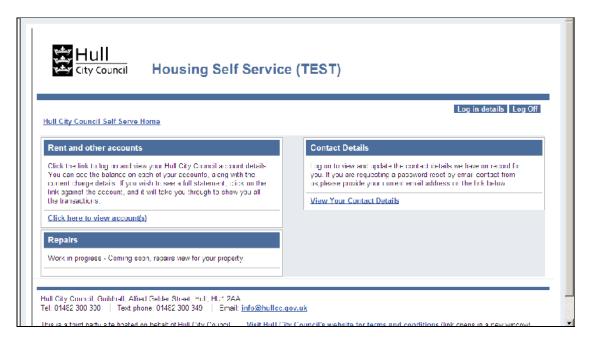
This will remove the associated contact details from records held by Hull City Council, Housing Department.

Online rent statements

One of the key benefits of Housing Self Service is to allow customers to securely access details of rent balances and payments.

Hull City Council Housing encourages as many users as possible to access this information to ensure that customers can always get the latest balance and payment details, to assist them keeping in keeping rent payments up to date.

After successful log in to Housing Self Service, click on the Housing Self Service Home link at the top left of the screen. This will take you back to the home page, where the Housing online rent statement can be accessed.



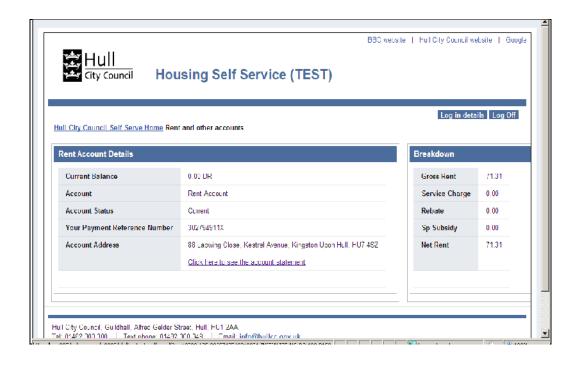
Click on the 'View your account details' link. This will open the Rent Account Details screen. This initially is a summary by account type of the current balance. Multiple accounts will be shown where relevant.

The information displayed on accounts cannot be edited or deleted.

Online rent statements

- 1 The Current Balance will show the current balance of the account
- 2 Account shows the account type
- 3 Account Status will show this as a current or former account
- 4 Payment Reference will show the unique payment reference of the account holder
- 5 Account Address shows the current recorded address of the account holder

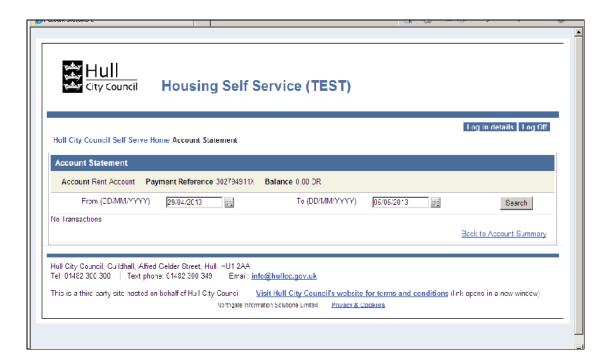
Clicking on the 'Click here to see the account statement' provides a detailed statement for the account



Online rent statements

This screen shows all transactions recorded on the account, with the most recent transactions first.

The list of transactions can be refined by selecting the calendar 'From' and 'To' dates and clicking on Search.



Key to account details

Date	Date the transaction was recorded
Transaction	Transaction description
Credit	Any payments credited to the account
Debit	Any charges debited from the account (e.g. rent charge)
Balance	The running balance on the account

On Line Housing Repairs

You can only report a repair or view repairs for your property if you are logged on to your account

Please check the contact details we are holding for you are correct by clicking on the View your Contact Details link on the home page, prior to requesting your repair/appointment and update as necessary.

How to report a repair

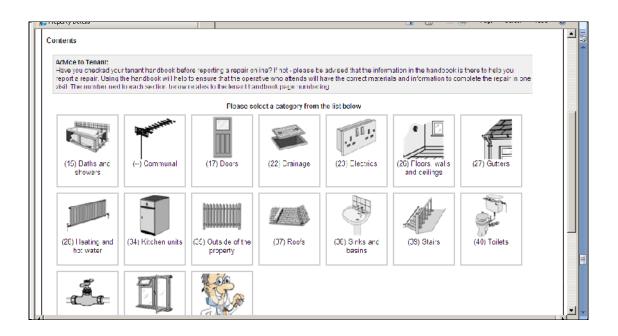
Click on the link to view and report a repair



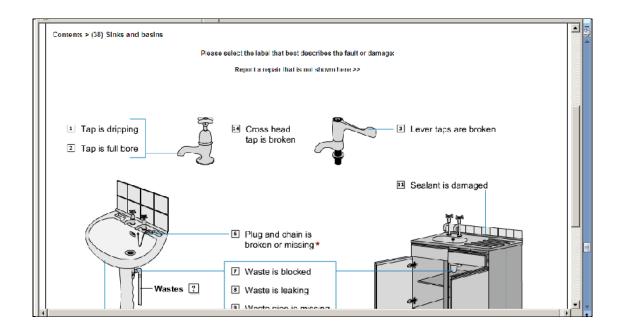
Click on the link next to your address to 'Report a fault for this address' the following screen will be displayed



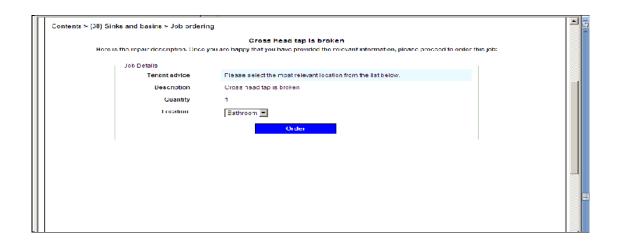
Click on the blue button Report a Repair and the screen below will be displayed



Click in the area you are requesting the repair and a diagram will be displayed see next page



Select the appropriate diagram for your repair and the screen will move on automatically for you to check the details are correct and update location of the repair if appropriate, if all correct click on the blue 'Order' button.



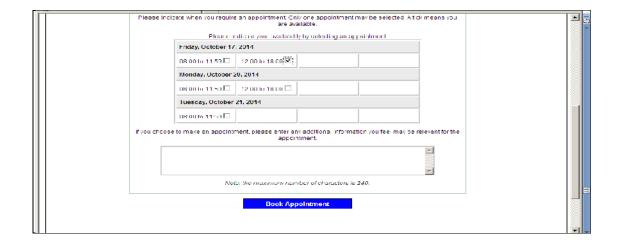
A confirmation screen will be displayed with your name, telephone number and any email address you have registered with us, if all of these are correct click blue 'Submit' button.

(The details on this screen should always be correct if you have checked them prior to reporting the repair)

Once you have clicked submit, a message will appear to say your request is being processed and will take approximately 60 seconds, once successful the next screen will display your repair and the repair number.

Once your repair is processed the screen will then move on to display available appointments (if applicable for your repair – no appointment necessary for any work outside of the property)

Click in the appropriate time box to select when you want the contractor to attend, add any comments and click on blue button 'Book Appointment'



You will now have raised your repair and booked an appointment

How to amend or cancel an appointment

Click on the link Amend Appointment

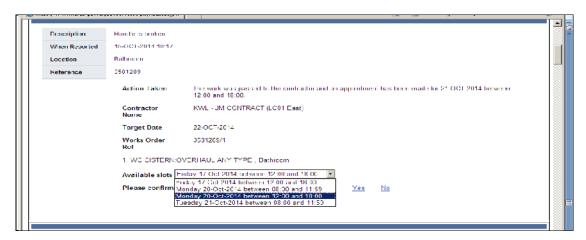


The following screen will appear, select either Change appointment or Cancel appointment, as appropriate.



Click on **change appointment** to amend the appointment day/time and new available slots will be displayed, click on the down arrow to display further available slots, select which slot you would prefer.

Click on **Yes** to confirm you wish to change this appointment If you wish to cancel the appointment, click on **cancel appointment**Click **Yes** to confirm



Viewing repairs on your property

This screen shows you a view of repairs on your property within a specified period (currently 6 months but subject to change) and any repairs not completed on your property

The list of repairs shows:-

When the repair was reported,

Location of the repair within the property,

Action taken i.e. Work passed to Contractor

Target date for resolution of your repair

Works order reference number

Description of work requested i.e. TAP: OVERHAUL ANY TYPE OF TAP, Bathroom

Any action/access history for the repair – see page below for explanation of codes

View related repairs – this is any repairs logged against a street or if you live in a flat, any communal repairs raised on your block.



Click on Access History link to view further access details, you will then need to scroll down to the bottom of the page and this will display the event/actions and any relevant code (description of the codes below)





Description Of Access History - Non Access Codes	Explanation of code
Unable to gain access 1st card left	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home but you were unavailable at the time they called. A card has been left. Please contact the number on the card to arrange a convenient appointment
Unable to gain access 2nd card left	Our contractor has tried a second time to gain access to your home but you were unavailable at the time they called. A card has been left. Please contact the number on the card to arrange a convenient appointment

Introductory letter sent to customer	An introductory letter has been sent to you detailing what works are required to your home.
Card left-access required to property	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home but you were unavailable at the time they called. A card has been left. Please contact the number on the card to arrange a convenient appointment
New appointment date	The appointment for the planned works in your home has been amended
Appointment made	The appointment for the planned works in your home has been raised
Awaiting further instructions	The job has been referred to the Housing Investment Team. Please contact HISCSS@hullcc.gov.uk_or ring 300300 for further information.
Awaiting further instructions - PM	The job has been referred to the Housing Investment Team. Please contact HISCSS@hullcc.gov.uk_or ring 300300 for further information.
Progress update-awaiting materials	Materials have been ordered to complete the repair outstanding at your home. As soon as the materials arrive in stock our contractor will contact you to make a convenient appointment.
Job delayed-customers request	The job is now on hold as per your request. Please contact HISCSSS@hullcc.gov.uk or ring 300300 if you would like the work to commence.
Planned works started	Our contractor has confirmed that the planned works have started in your home

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Awaiting materials – Planned work	Materials have been ordered to complete the repair outstanding at your home. As soon as the materials arrive in stock our contractor will contact you to make a convenient appointment.
Unable to complete work-referred to HCC	The job has been referred to the Housing Investment Team. Please contact HISCSS@hullcc.gov.uk or ring 300300 for further information.
Job delayed-unfavourable weather	Due to the weather conditions at the time of attendance, we are unable to complete this job and have therefore put the job on hold. Our contractor will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a convenient appointment
Gas Appliances capped off	The gas appliances have been capped off and isolated at your home
Card left to confirm capped gas	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home to confirm if the gas is capped at meter but you were unavailable at the time they called. A card has been left. Please contact the number on the card to arrange a convenient appointment
1st letter sent regarding capped gas	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home to confirm if the gas is capped at meter but you were unavailable at the time they called. A reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
2nd letter sent regarding capped gas	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home to confirm if the gas is capped at meter but you were unavailable at the time they called. A second reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment

Legal letter (3) sent regarding capped gas	Our contractor has tried to gain access to your home to confirm if the gas is capped at meter but you were unavailable at the time they called. A letter from our legal department has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
Check & Test Letter 1 sent	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access but you were unavailable at the time they called. A reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
Check & Test Letter 2 sent	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access but you were unavailable at the time they called. A second reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
Check & Test referred to Housing Teams	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access along with sending reminder letters but have still been unable to gain access. We have now referred this issue to your Area Housing Team. If you would like to arrange an appointment please contact HISCSS@hullcc.gov.u or ring 300300
Check & Test 2 nd referral to Housing Teams	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access along with sending reminder letters but have still been unable to gain access. We have referred this issue to your Area Housing Team (2nd Referral) If you would like to arrange an appointment please contact HISCSS@hullcc.gov.uk_or ring 300300

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Check & Test 3 rd referral to Housing Teams	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access along with sending reminder letters but have still been unable to gain access. We have referred this issue to your Area Housing Team (3rd Referral) If you would like to arrange an appointment please contact HISCSSS@hullcc.gov.uk or ring 300300
Check & Test 4 th referral to Housing Teams	A gas check and test is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access along with sending reminder letters but have still been unable to gain access. We have referred this issue to your Area Housing Team (4th and final referral) If you would like to arrange an appointment please contact HISCSSS@hullcc.gov.uk or ring 300300
Confirmed gas is capped at the meter	A gas engineer has attended property and confirmed the gas is capped at the meter
Further 1st visit following gas repair	A further visit is required to your home following the original repair. Our contractor will contact you as soon as possible to make a convenient appointment
2nd visit following original gas repair	A further visit is required to your home following the original repair. Our contractor will contact you as soon as possible to make a convenient appointment
	A gas service is required to your home.
Gas Servicing referred to Housing Teams	Our contractor has tried to gain access along with sending reminder letters but have still been unable to gain access.
	We have now referred this issue to your Area Housing Team.
	If you would like to arrange an appointment please contact HISCSSS@hullcc.gov.uk or ring 300300

Gas Servicing reminder letter 1 sent	A gas service is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access but you were unavailable at the time they called. A reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
Gas Servicing reminder letter 2 sent	A gas service is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access but you were unavailable at the time they called. A 2nd reminder letter has been sent to your home. Please contact the number on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment
Failed appointment at DL4 stage	A gas service is required to your home. Our contractor has tried to gain access but you were unavailable at the time they called. A card has been left. Please contact the number on the card to arrange a convenient appointment
Unable to gain access-final letter sent	We have tried a number of times to contact you regarding works that are required in your home. We have sent you a final letter. Please telephone us urgently on the number provided on the letter to arrange a convenient appointment.
No Meter in property	A gas engineer has attended property and confirmed there is no gas meter present
Awaiting materials following gas repair	Materials have been ordered to complete the repair outstanding at your home. As soon as the materials arrive in stock our contractor will contact you to make a convenient appointment.
Property Void at time of Service	The property was void when the contractor visited to undertake the gas service

Housing Self Service security

Hull City Council takes the security of all customer information extremely seriously. In order to protect the security of personal data held within Housing Self Service, the system will automatically timeout after 20 minutes of inactivity.

Password and user name reminders

Should you forget your password, this can be reset and reissued automatically by clicking on the 'I have forgotten my password' link on the log in screen.

The password will be reset automatically and a letter issued to your registered correspondence address containing these revised details. If you have requested email contact, we will send you a password reset by email.

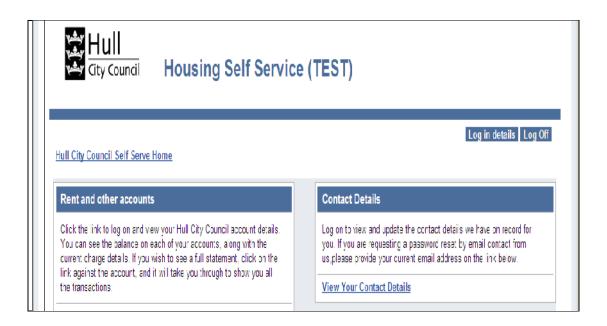
If you do not receive this reminder within 10 working days, please contact <u>HS-SystemsSupportTeam@hullcc.gov.uk</u> or telephone 01482 300 300 for further help.

Hull City Council Housing will then contact you using the contact details held on record. You will be asked a number of security questions to confirm your identity to ensure that we only pass information to the correct customer.

Accessing Housing Self Service from a shared computer.

If the computer used to access details is a shared one, it is strongly advised that you log off before leaving the computer and close the web browser. This will protect your personal details from being seen by another user.

Simply click on the Log Off button in the top right of Housing Self Service web page and then close the current web session, and ideally delete your browsing history.



Further information

Should you have any questions about registering, accessing or using Housing Self Service, please contact:

HS-SystemsSupportTeam@hullcc.gov.uk or telephone 01482 300 300